

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

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MARCH 20, 2007

News Notes

Easter open house rescheduled

The depot chapel conducts nondenominational services every Sunday at 11 a.m. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of the month. A fellowship hour and potluck luncheon follow the service on the last Sunday of the month.

Chaplain (Major) Philip Smiley also has announced that the open house planned for Easter Sunday has been rescheduled to April 22. The open house, including a luncheon, will immediately follow services on April 22.

For more information, call the chaplain, X59689.

Health screening available soon

The U.S. Army Health Clinic here will conduct a carotid artery and thyroid screening April 2-4, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day.

This is an ultrasound procedure with immediate results. The cost is \$25 and checks should be made payable to Cardiovascular Services. Sign up sheets are available in the clinic.

For more information, call Elizabeth Abraham, X58230.

Fitness program adds Thursdays

The Mack Fitness and Recreation Center is offering a fitness program every Thursday from May 3 through June 7. This is in addition to the fitness program on Saturdays published in the March 6 *Tobyhanna Reporter*.

The program consists of a cardiovascular toning class from 6 to 7 p.m. and a yoga/Pilates fusion class from 7 to 8 p.m.

A minimum of 10 to a maximum of 25 people are needed for each class.

Take one or both classes; each costs \$48 for six weeks. Tuition is payable at time of registration. Make checks payable to PA Dance Vision. Registration forms are available at the center. For further information, call X57583.

Annual golf tournament set for June

The annual Sandy Sutherland Veterans Benefit Golf Tournament will tee off at 11 a.m. on June 18 at Pine Hills Country Club in Taylor.

The tournament uses the captain and crew format. The cost is \$80 for greens fee, cart and dinner following golf. Proceeds benefit veterans served by the VA Medical Center, Plains, and the Gino Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton. Registration forms are available in the Public Affairs Office.

For more information, call Joe Sylvester, 961-2696.

Just a token of appreciation

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IOF handover, upgrades save millions

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Transfer of Industrial Operations Facility operations and maintenance to Tobyhanna Army Depot has resulted in improved mission flexibility and increased productivity, and saved \$3.1 million since 2004.

Facility upgrades have also saved more than \$1 million in the past three years for a total savings of more than \$4 million, a 65 percent saving over previous costs.

The Industrial Operations Facility (IOF) contains industrial plating, painting, sandblast and wastewater treatment facilities. The IOF was constructed to modernize and relocate refinishing operations, incorporate current process technologies, and eliminate outdated or hazardous processes.

"Operations and maintenance of the IOF had been run through a contract, which was due to expire," said Ray Watkins, industrial engineer. "The contract cost was high and a decision was made by depot leadership to take it in-house. Transfer efforts began in 2002 and depot employees took over in December 2004." Watkins works in the Research and Analysis Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

Charles Valenza, a chemist in the Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate's Industrial Modernization Division, working with division personnel and personnel from the Production Engineering Directorate, led the transfer and cost savings documentation effort.

Valenza said the contractor was carrying out operations and maintenance for the wastewater treatment plant and maintenance of the plating shop equipment. Public Works Directorate personnel maintained the rest of the facility.

The contractor had maintained the IOF since it was built. The official opening was in 2003. Depot employees carry out mission work performed there.

"A study was performed and a report detailed a review of the contractor's IOF operations and maintenance (OM) cost estimate," Valenza said. "To compare the costs of government-supplied OM services to the cost of the same services supplied by a contractor, the contractor estimate was duplicated and populated with applicable government costs and data. The comparison suggested that Tobyhanna could realize a 56 percent reduction in cost."

Watkins said the transfer makes it easier to coordinate operations and maintenance, giving the depot greater flexibility because there is no need to add additional contract workers if there is an increase in workload.

"We also hired the contractors as depot employees, so it's a win-win situation," Valenza added.

Cost saving upgrades included the IOF Exhaust Fume Scrubber System. The system is composed of five large exhaust fans and four fume scrubbers that remove pollutants from contaminated air exhausted from the facility. The chemical contaminants within the exhaust air are transferred to water that



Dennis Hollman, engineering technician, verifies control signals during diagnostic procedures in the Industrial Operations Facility. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski)

is sprayed within the scrubbers. The polluted water from each scrubber is transferred to its associated scrubber wastewater transfer tank located inside the gallery of the facility.

Upgrades eliminated the possibility of hazardous spills, enhanced air quality and improved safety, saving about \$164,000 over three years, or 89 percent of the previous cost.

The IOF's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant uses membrane technology and reverse osmosis equipment to purify and recycle 90 percent of the wastewater generated by the plating, ultrasonic, and steam cleaning operations.

"Improved reverse osmosis procedures reduce repair and maintenance costs and increase system reliability," Watkins said. The improvements saved more than \$204,000 over three years, 83 percent of the previous cost.

Upgrade and balancing the process exhaust fans increased safety and reduced cost through reducing air intake during off hours.

"The fans were designed for 24 hour per day operation so they could handle a three shift day," Valenza explained. "They were also run to prevent ice buildup, which would throw them off balance. But it wasn't necessary to run them at full power, only that they could be run constantly if we went to a three shift day. Even now with the war, there is only one shift, plus whatever overtime is necessary. The solution was to lower the fan speed during off hours."

This saved nearly \$568,000 in energy costs over three years, a 49 percent savings. Plus, the project realized an additional

See IOF on Page 7

Depot employees are seeing red every Friday

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Excellence in Electronics:
Around the Depot

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Employees now enjoy a new dining facility in the depot's mission work area. Café 4, located in Bldg. 4 Bay 3, replaced two smaller facilities located in buildings 1C and the TEIRF. The serving area features a mini food court with a salad bar and soup area, a self-serve deli line, a grill area, and a dinner and hot sandwich line. Pizza and hoagies are also available on select days. (Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski)

Café 4 serves 3 'squares' a day; modern facility feeds thousands

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Employees now enjoy a new dining facility in the heart of the depot's mission work area. Café 4, located in Bldg. 4 Bay 3, replaced two smaller facilities located in buildings 1C and the TEIRF.

Café 4's dining area has a seating capacity of 300. The room can be subdivided into three smaller multi-functional rooms and boasts new tables, chairs and two 52-inch plasma TV's.

The serving area, kitchen, storage areas and equipment are all new. The serving area features a mini food court where customers can choose from a salad bar and soup area, a self-serve deli line, a grill area, and a dinner and hot sandwich line. Pizza and hoagies are also available on select days. Beverages and snacks are available in the cashier room.

About 1,000 employees visit for breakfast and lunch daily. Café 4 can feed over 1,000 customers during the lunch period. Soldiers training here can get breakfast, lunch and dinner.

There will be an opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on April 3. Immediately after the ceremony, the celebration will continue with free food and beverages sponsored by the Civilian Welfare Council from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will include hotdogs, hamburgers, french fries, soda and cake.

Melinda McMillon Darby, Army Civilian Personnel official, will cut the ribbon and the cake at the ceremony.

Café 4 is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Café is also open Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact Rich Shermanski, X57998, to reserve the dining room for special functions.

At close of business, March 9, I assumed duties as your acting Secretary of the Army. I am honored to lead and to care for our Soldiers, their families and our Army Civilians at this pivotal, dangerous time in the history of our great nation.

We are an Army at war – fighting a ruthless, adaptive and determined enemy. I am inspired and humbled by your selfless service, your sacrifices and your record of accomplishment. Your "boots on the ground" have enabled historic elections in Afghanistan and Iraq. Your presence will be required to enable democracy to take hold in these countries, to defeat our enemies, to underwrite America's ability to protect its citizens and to defend its interests wherever they are threatened.

Seldom has our nation asked so much of our Army and of our Soldiers and families – but as always, our Army is getting the job done. You are answering the Call to Duty. You are serving proudly, whenever and wherever needed – making enormous contributions and sacrifices in so many vital roles:

- Fighting with courage and valor at the forefront of the war on terror;
- Deterring aggression in troubled regions worldwide;
- Securing our borders and preventing attacks on our nation; and,
- Supporting civil authorities to respond to natural disasters at home and abroad.

As a result of your hard work, we have much to be proud of. I stand in awe of the patriotism and the commitment to our Army Values that you demonstrate every day in accomplishing our mission. Through your hard work, you have earned the trust, confidence and respect of the American people whom we serve. *We will maintain this trust.*

We remain resolute in our determination to preserve peace and freedom for America. To build the strategic depth we require – *to be able to respond decisively to any and all missions we may be assigned* – we are focusing on five major challenges:

- Achieving Full Spectrum Readiness;
- Managing Stress on the Force;
- Growing the Army;
- Protecting the Force; and,
- Building the Army of the Future

Working together – adhering to our four overarching strategies, and guided by the ideals reflected in our Army Values and our Warrior Ethos – we will realize our Army Vision. We will *"remain the preeminent landpower on Earth...the ultimate instrument of national resolve...that is both relevant to, and ready for, the challenges of the dangerous, complex 21st century environment."*

I have been proud to serve as your Under Secretary of the Army during the tenure of the Honorable Dr. Francis J. Harvey. His commitment to each of you – *who represent the very best our Nation has to offer* – was the hallmark of his service. As we continue our work together, I assure you my top priority remains our Soldiers and their families.

Again, I am honored to lead and to care for our Soldiers, families, Army civilians and veterans. Together, we will build on our record of accomplishment. We will continue to meet the needs of the Nation. *I look forward to serving with you and for you. Army Strong!*

THANKS

On March 2 I developed a nosebleed that would not stop. People from my directorate called the depot's emergency responders to help, against my protests. The EMTs came and administered first aid, but could not stop the bleeding and decided to transport me to the hospital, again over my protests because I was afraid to go.

My fears were unfounded because they took wonderful care of me the whole time enroute to the Community Medical Center and stayed with me until I was checked in and under the care of Community Medical Center emergency room personnel.

I want to let everyone know how caring our emergency responders were to me.

They tried to calm me because I have never had a

nosebleed, never was in an ambulance and certainly never in the situation I was in on that day.

I thank the guys that helped me in my emergency, they were wonderful, and the Team we have at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Paula Yaggi

Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and e-mails my wife and I received after the death of her mother, Margaret Berscheid.

Thank you all from the Berscheid Family in Omaha, Neb.

Ed and Jackie Wickham

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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ELECTRONICS

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New quality policy clear, defines 7 characteristics

by Kevin Toolan
Public Affairs Officer

The depot's new quality policy couldn't be spelled out any more clearly. Linked to the acronym QUALITY, it defines seven quality characteristics that all employees should apply every day, says Bill Thompson, quality assurance specialist, the Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

An effective quality policy is essential to the depot meeting its obligations to its customers.

"The quality of our workmanship—regardless of the job we hold—is our personal signature and our guarantee," stated Col. Ron Alberto, depot commander, in issuing the new policy.

The new policy will be briefed to all personnel this week.

All employees will also receive wallet-sized cards that contain both the new

QUALITY policy definitions and the environmental policy. The cards can be affixed to employees' identification badges. Linking the acronym to the policy should give it greater visibility and awareness within the depot work force, Thompson explained. Employees should become familiar with the new policy, which replaces the FACTS quality policy developed in 2004.

The new policy focuses on providing high-quality, cost-effective products and services to the joint Warfighter. It stresses a customer focus, best value, the use of Lean to ensure continual improvement, teamwork, and an individual and organizational commitment to environmental stewardship.

The new policy is being implemented in advance of the depot's second surveillance audit for its ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification. Two

auditors from Orion Registration will be at the depot April 18-20 to assess Tobyhanna's compliance with certification requirements and quality improvements. Directorates scheduled for April audits are: Productivity Improvement and Innovation, Public Works, Production Management, Business Management, Systems Integration and Support (5F300), and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.

"This new policy should prove easy to remember and easy to use. It provides a simple, relevant reminder of what all of us at Tobyhanna are here for—ensuring the best C4ISR support to the Warfighter!" said Larry Bulanda, the new chief of the Quality Management Division.

Brad Jones is now the depot's ISO 9001 Quality Management representative, succeeding Robert Katulka. Jones is the depot's director of PII. Katulka now is the director of ISR.

Quality product delivered
Understand customer requirements
Assure best value
Lean environment for continual improvement
Improvise methods for continual environmental stewardship
Teamwork to transform customer expectation to reality
Yield continuous superior products and service

In the field: Tobyhanna employees earn accolades

by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor

Customers are taking notice of the time and effort Tobyhanna employees put into their jobs while serving in temporary-duty assignments and deployments, and fulfilling mobile depot maintenance (MDM) requirements around the globe.

Various forms of correspondence arrive here providing hard-earned pats on the back to the employees who support mission requirements for all branches of the service, including Guard and Reserve units in the field. Military and civilian leaders use e-mail, letters of commendation, incentive awards, and the depot's survey forms to convey their appreciation for the overhaul, upgrade and repair of critical equipment. On any given day 200 Tobyhanna personnel provide technical assistance here and overseas.

A field operations officer in Baghdad, Iraq wrote, "The performance of Tobyhanna personnel has been exemplary.

These workers have been outstanding professionals and outstanding performers in all aspects of their duties." In the correspondence, the officer also noted that "the employees accepted responsibilities beyond their duty assignment and mentored younger Soldiers as well as other civilians. The systems they directly work on and applications they provide are critical to the survival of many Soldiers at all Army echelons, from squad level through corps."

Personnel work long hours in often austere environments far from home station. Tobyhanna operates 40 Forward Repair Sites; 13 in Southwest Asia (SWA), an average of 100 employees have worked daily since October 2001, for a total of 123,460 work days, supporting the Tobyhanna Joint Support to Expeditionary Logistics in SWA.

Michele Yeager and Terry Williams are customer satisfaction specialists who employ several information gathering methods to provide an accurate and comprehensive picture of the depot's strengths and weaknesses. They work in the Business Planning Division,

Business Management Directorate.

The Tobyhanna Customer Satisfaction Surveys provide depot leadership information on how well the depot is performing, Yeager explained. She randomly selects customers from a list of about 700-800 to complete the forms whenever products or services are provided. Customers can submit comments via phone, mail or e-mail.

"The personnel in the field are doing a great job," said Yeager. "They are constantly getting recognized."

From November 2002 through August 2006, 35 surveys were submitted regarding the MDM workload. MDM is a preventive maintenance mission. Tobyhanna makes field-level repairs to the ground communications and electronics (GCE) fixed shelters at Air Force major command and Air National Guard sites. Teams consisting of employees who work in the Systems Integration and Support (SIS) Directorate's Refinishing Services and Industrial Services divisions have received high marks for their work around the world.

"It was apparent that the team knew what they were doing," wrote officials at Travis Air Force Base.

Officials at Tyndall Air Force Base agreed. "The team was very professional in the way they conducted themselves. We appreciate the care they took on all pieces of equipment."

Word of Joe Wint's work in Tuzla, Bosnia, also made its way to the depot. "He was very positive and went out of his way to make sure an exceptional job was being done." Wint is a general equipment mechanic leader in the Refinishing Services Division.

Another customer praised the work SIS Directorate employees John Youshock and Doug Serfass performed while on temporary duty assignment to Fort Campbell, Ky.

"John and Doug did an outstanding job. They came prepared, are very experienced and a pleasure to work with." The customer responded "very satisfied" on all the survey questions regarding Tobyhanna's support of the unmanned aerial vehicle program.

The satisfaction ratings per category for the four years were: skill level, 94 percent; timeliness, 94 percent; quality, 94 percent; communications, 89 percent, and cost, 87 percent.

The Tactical Satellite Design and Support Division supports the design, manufacture and fielding related to the Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) for the AN/TSC-93 and AN/TSC-85 located at sites in the U.S. States and overseas.



Customers have approved Tobyhanna Army Depot's support of the armed forces via customer satisfaction surveys and other correspondence. About 200 personnel provide assistance here and overseas on a daily basis. (Photo courtesy John O'Brien)

See ACCOLADES on Page 6



RED FRIDAYS a salute to Soldiers

Employees in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Electronic Services Division, participate in Red Fridays, a national movement to show support of the troops. The movement was inspired by an article that has been circulating around the United States describing a final plane ride home for a fallen Marine who was accompanied by a fellow Marine. (Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski)



Cleared for landing

Soldiers assigned to B Company, 392nd Signal Battalion, prepare to be airlifted to Fort Indiantown Gap in one of two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters March 9. Forty-eight members of the depot's tenant unit participated in a field training exercise that tested their ability to set up tactical operations in a field environment and execute convoy operations. The training included the use of MILES equipment (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) and mock improvised explosive devices. The exercise, which ended March 11, also included an orientation flight on the Black Hawks. Soldiers that flew down, convoyed back and Soldiers that convoyed down flew back to Tobyhanna. Capt. Shane Abell, company commander, thanked Tobyhanna personnel for coordination assistance and providing support. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

Depot coin debuts: two earn well-deserved pat on back

by Kevin Toolan
Public Affairs Officer

Two depot employees are the first recipients of the depot's new Command Coin.

Col. Ron Alberto, depot commander, presented the coins to Brian Korgeski, Public Works Directorate, and Janelle Marchione, Command, Control Computers/Avionics Directorate, at their worksites March 6.

Korgeski was recognized for his initiative. He made a decision to have a back-up vehicle positioned at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton airport during the December visit of Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

The general's helicopter was diverted due to poor weather at the depot. Because of Brian's decision, not a moment was wasted.

"Brian's efforts got the visit off to a great start and, as a result, we had an extended day with the general," Alberto said.

Marchione played an equally key role during another important visit, that of Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, AMC's deputy commanding general, last month.

Alberto singled her out for her presentation on the depot's Reset of aircraft survivability equipment, including the AN/ALQ-144 infrared countermeasures set.

"Command coins are intended to give immediate recognition to Soldiers and civilians for a job well done. Brian and Janelle deserve to be the first to receive our new depot coin and I look forward to presenting many more in the months ahead," Alberto added.

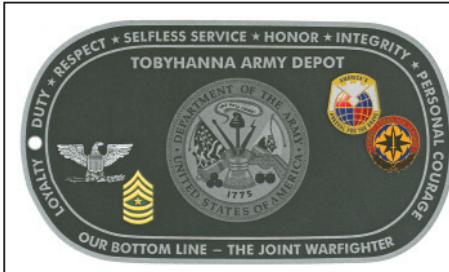
The coin is minted in the shape of a Soldier's dog tag "to remind us of those we support every day," Alberto explained to the honorees' co-workers at their worksites. "It also includes the motto: 'Our Bottom Line-The Joint Warfighter.'

The coins are black and bronze. The coin's front features the rank insignia for Col. Alberto and SGM Robert Anderson, the Army values, the Army seal, and the AMC and Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command crests. The back features a representation of the Building 11 and the statement "For outstanding achievement and excellence." The recipient's name is also engraved on the back of the coin.

Anderson took the lead on designing and obtaining the coins. "The tradition of these coins dates back to the 1800s. It is a great memento given to individuals who do something special for the organization. It should be a source of pride and a boost to morale," Anderson said. "We wanted a coin that recognizes the excellent support, selfless service and dedication of our personnel."

"I accept this proudly on behalf of the ASE team," Marchione stated after accepting her coin. "What we accomplish here is done as a team and I'm proud to be part of that team."

A display case with the new command coins and a history of the coins will rotate through various depot locations, beginning at the security building. Next, it will be located in Café 4, Building 4, Bay 3, and then in the lobby of Building 11.



Tobyhanna Army Depot's new Command Coin is in the shape of a dog tag to remind recipients that they support the warfighter. Coin features include the depot's motto: "Our Bottom Line-The Joint Warfighter," and the Army values. Brian Korgeski and Janelle Marchione are the first depot employees to receive the coin. (Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski)

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



Antenna Systems Branch

Communications Systems Directorate

The branch's 28 employees overhaul, repair and align the OE-361 Quick Reaction Satellite Antenna, AS-4429 Lightweight High Gain X-Band Antenna and AS-3036 Tactical Antenna as well as provide global support to Army, Air Force and Marine units.



Donald Brown, electronics mechanic, checks a completed antenna reflector panel before installing it on the OE-361 antenna.



Thomas Marsico, electronics worker, installs the cover on the "J" box assembly of an AS-4429 antenna.



James Ludolph, electronics worker, prepares an antenna pallet transport frame. The frame is used to transport the AS-3036 antenna.

Equipment Specs

The OE-361 is a transportable, multi-carrier capable, 20-foot antenna capable of continuous operation and is designed to operate in different climates.

The AS-4429 is a highly mobile large aperture tactical antenna. It uses a 16-foot reflector mounted on a trailer. The antenna incorporates an offset-feed design that enables the antenna to perform with the same characteristics of a 20-foot reflector.

The AS-3036 is an antenna that uses an 8-foot reflector. Service Life Extension Program updates have increased the capabilities of this antenna.



George Owen, electronics mechanic, discusses operation of an OE-361 "J" box assembly with his shop supervisor, Denis Calarco.



Leonard McCamley, electronics mechanic, and Carl Bianchi, electronics integrated systems mechanic, prepare an AS-3036/TSC hub assembly for movement to the TIERF building for testing.



Scott Derwin, electronics worker, uses a C-10273 Antenna Control Drawer to perform an operational test on actuators for the AS-3036/TSC antenna.



Brown and Owen prepare an OE-361 for movement to the antenna test site.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Dallas, Shavertown, Exeter:** Accepting names for waiting list, van, 7 passengers, non-smoking, 5/4/9, contact Bob Redinski, X59184 or send e-mail.
- **Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, non-smoking, van, 5/4/9, call Paul Sacco, X56725 or Bill Joyce, X56774.
- **Jessup area:** 1 opening, non-smoking, van, 5/4/9, call Bob, X58818 or Gene, X57532.
- **Edwardsville, Kingston, Wilkes-Barre:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. shift, meet at Price Chopper in

Edwardsville, call John Stochla, X58793 or Wayne Watkins, X58642.

• **Allentown area:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, starts at William Penn highway park and Ride, stops in Wind Gap, call Ed Estrada, X56683.

• **Taylor, Old Forge:** 1 opening, van, 9/4/5 (off 2nd Friday), non-smoking, house-to-house pickup, call Ed, X59643.

• **White Haven, Mountain Top, Freeland, Hazleton, Drums, Conyngham:** 3 openings, 3rd shift, van, call John Yackiel, X57245.

• **Dunmore, East Scranton:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 9/4/5, non-smoking, door-to-door pickup, call Rich Kocis, X56816.

• **Olyphant, Jessup, Throop:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, non-smoking, call Bryan or Dave, X57639.

• **Meshoppen, Tunkhannock, Dalton:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 9/4/5, ends at Mr. Zs, Waverly exit on Interstate 81, call Thomas, X58736.

• **Berwick, Nescopeck, Conyngham:** individual seeks car or van pool, 5/4/9, contact Erin Priestman, X59779 or erin.priestman@tobyhanna.army.mil.

• **Parrish bus:** 5 openings, non-smoking, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., stops at the Midway Shopping Center, Wyoming; Gerrity's Market, West Pittston; Pittston Plaza; Convenient Market in Avoca, and the Triple A Auto at bottom of Route 502, \$125 a month, call Tony, X57507 or Bob, X56845.

• **Carbondale area:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, shared

driving, 5/4/9, RDO first Friday, house pick up, call Patrick, X57178.

• **Back Mountain, Luzerne, Kingston:** Individual seeks van pool, 5/4/9, contact Jeff Ciaruffoli, X59705 or Jeffrey.Ciaruffoli@us.army.mil.

• **Jim Thorpe area:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, shared driving, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., call Pat, X57671.

• **Childs, Jessup, Dunmore:** openings, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, "A" placard, park and rides, call Larry Backman, X59329.



TRADING POST

• **Picnic table:** Oak, 6 feet long, good shape, several years old, asking \$50, call Ray, 676-0783.

• **Pool:** 21-foot round, above ground, attached fence, filter, solar cover, A-frame ladder, auto vac and other accessories, 1 year old, purchased new and installed last summer, buyer removes, asking \$1,500 OBO, call Gregg, 267-8365 after 5 p.m.

• **Misc items:** Ladder, 10 foot, Louisville fiberglass, heavy-duty, folding, new over \$300, asking \$200; extension ladder, 36-foot, Louisville fiberglass, new over \$600, asking \$375; Knaack Jobmaster 36 work box, new \$230, asking \$140 OBO; cable, 75 feet, 75ohm, dual RG6, black, \$10; DeWalt DW402 used grinder with case, \$30, call Chuck or Pam, 752-6934.

ACCOLADES from Page 3

Within the past two years, 35-40 employees have traveled to a dozen locations providing fielding support and technical assistance, according to Thomas Musso, electronics engineer supervisor, Production Engineering Directorate.

"We support Reserve and Guard units in Kuwait, Korea, Germany, and many stateside facilities," said Mark Fagotti, SLEP project engineer. "The employees are doing a great job adding SLEP kits to terminals as they are being Reset or overhauled."

The division also supports the design, manufacture and installation of contingency systems. For example, the AN/TSA-86D was developed here and fielded at a number of sites requiring temporary satellite communication services. Teams travel to Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Fort Greeley, Alaska, and Fort Eareckson Air Station, Alaska, to ensure all equipment is installed and working correctly, according to Musso.

"Depending on the time of the year at the Alaska sites, it is very difficult to install equipment, especially large antennas, and other outside equipment," said Bob Meehan, electronics engineer.

The Satellite Communications (SATCOM) Systems Engineering Division sent eight people to Japan for 90 days to work on the auxiliary communications shelter (ACS). The PE Directorate provided design, development, production, fielding, and operation and maintenance support to the Missile Defense Agency and Project Manager Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PM DCATS) on the project, according to Mark Capitano, division chief.

In addition, the SATCOM division repeatedly sent one individual on temporary duty to Kuwait, for a total of 90 days, to install two Satellite Communications medium terminals and radomes.

Stanley Fisher, Avionics Division chief, received feedback about one of the depot's electronics mechanics job performance while assigned to Logistics Support Activity Anaconda, Balad, Iraq.

"Absolutely outstanding feedback on the work that Ryan Cortez is doing in Balad," said Richard Pribyl, Airborne Navigation Communications Division chief, Logistics Readiness Center, Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command.

"I would like to let you know what a good job Ryan has been doing since his arrival here," said Russ Slate, C-E LCMC Maintenance Activity, SWA. "He has displayed a very positive outgoing attitude, and has been very receptive to doing anything necessary to ensure equipment support. His positive attitude and outstanding work ethic has benefited the mission and the support of command equipment here."

Cortez works in the Command, Control and Computer/Aeronautics Directorate. While in theater he tested and repaired aircraft survivability equipment such as the ALQ-144C, ALQ-136, ALQ-156A, and APX-100.

"I am proud to be a Tobyhanna employee who served twice in Kuwait," said Don Cirba, equipment specialist, Communications Support Division, PE Directorate. "The experience was very rewarding and made me feel proud to serve the many Soldiers who came to our FRA facility from Iraq, and Afghanistan. We were constantly praised by those who returned to us over and over again."

The Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate supports wartime missions, according to Suzanne Rudat, deputy director.

For instance, employees deploy for 120-179 days to support the Firefinder FRA in Iraq—individuals from the AN/TPQ-36 Systems Branch, AN/TPQ-37 Systems Branch and Firefinder Components Branch. Volunteers from the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Branch, Electro-Optic/Night Vision Division, and other support personnel typically deploy for 179 days.

A customer wrote, "Daymon Miller has been a driving force for maintaining operational readiness for the AN/TPQ-37 (V)8 Radar Systems, regardless if they're maintained at the command FRA or at a radar site on LSA Anaconda." The survey also detailed how the Firefinder Division electronics mechanic leader had been instrumental

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Don Cirba

in identifying and repairing defective components that lead to a cost savings of \$459,515. "Miller is a highly dedicated professional and a subject matter expert on the radar systems."

Williams said field surveys come in as they occur. "The surveys come from the technicians in the field," she said. "Surveys aren't mandatory, but we encourage customers to fill them out."

"By far some of the most professional and friendly contractors/civilians I have ever dealt with. Their work was remarkable," said Navy Information Systems Technician Rebeka Harris, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md.

One Marine maintenance chief said that Tobyhanna technicians far exceeded expectations by working long hours, ensuring all aspects of electronic countermeasure are operational to the full extent. "They selflessly shared technical, personal and professional expertise; doing so has greatly increased this battalion's operational capabilities."

Tobyhanna continually strives for improvement in all areas of customer service; comments from all branches of the service and contractors are accepted, Yeager said.

Survey forms are available via the Internet, www.tobyhanna.army.mil, under the customer service link. For more information, call DSN: 795-TOBY (8629); commercial, 570-895-TOBY (8629), or toll free: 1-877-ASK-TOBY (275-8629). People can send an e-mail to ask-toby@tobyhanna.army.mil.

Army Emergency Relief funds provide help to Soldiers, families

Tobyhanna is conducting its annual Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign through May 15.

Your contribution will ensure that fellow service members will get the emergency financial assistance they may need, when they need it.

Eligibility for AER assistance:

- Soldiers on extended active duty and their eligible family members.
- Members of the National Guard and Reserve Components on orders for continuous active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days and their family members.
- Soldiers who retire from active duty for longevity or by reason of physical disability or upon attaining age 60 (Reserve Components); and their eligible family members.
- Widow(ers) and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after retirement.

AER assistance is available when:

- Soldiers and their family members have a valid emergency financial need.
- Widow(ers) and orphans of deceased Soldiers have an emergency need.
- Unmarried dependent children needing financial assistance for undergraduate level study.
- AER emergency financial assistance is available whenever Soldiers may be – primary outlets are the 93 AER Sections at Army installations worldwide. Other locations are American Red Cross, Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Auxiliary, Air Force Aid Society and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Office.
- AER helps commanders care for their Soldiers.
- AER funds available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid emergency financial need.

AER assistance is provided as a:

- Loan repaid without interest.
- Grant when repayment would cause hardship.
- Combination of loan and grant when repayment of the full amount of assistance would cause hardship.

Sources of funds to sustain AER financial assistance are:

- Loan repayment.
- Annual Fund Campaign
- Unsolicited contributions
- Investment Income.

For a contribution form or for further information, call Sonya Walls, AER officer, 570-895-6682. Anyone can make a contribution. Note that other branches of the service can request assistance from their aid societies through the depot's AER Office. In 2006, the Tobyhanna AER Office provided \$60,627 in assistance to service members and their families.



David LaBarre performs a conductivity measurement test in the IOF's Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant to test treated water. The more conductive the water is, the more impurities it has. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski)

IOF from Page 1

savings of over \$64,000 since it was designed, installed, and commissioned by Valenza and his team of technicians.

Future upgrades include treating wastewater from other depot operations at Tobyhanna. "We will be investigating the work necessary to accept the wastewater," Valenza said. "The project would increase productivity in the production areas and eliminate environmental concerns."

Increased plating and ultrasonic workload has created an increased demand for pure water. "As a result, we have performed the required engineering effort to increase the capacity of the reverse osmosis system in order to recycle wastewater into pure water at higher flow rates," Valenza added. "The upgrade will be performed with in-house labor. The project is scheduled for spring 2007."

NEW SUPERVISORS

Larry Bulanda is the Quality Management Division chief, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 24 employees who provide quality management for several Tobyhanna activities, to advance depot quality leadership and to serve as the focal point for International Organization for Standardization 9001-2000.

Prior to his current position, Bulanda was a project manager at the Johns Hopkins University applied physics laboratory. He began his career at Tobyhanna in this month.

Bulanda is a 1972 graduate of Fair Lawn High School, Fair Lawn, N.J. He graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and Fairleigh Dickinson University in N.J., in 1987 with a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering.

He and his wife, Susan, reside in Jim Thorpe. They are the parents of Thomas, 20.

Bulanda's hobbies include woodworking. He is a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers and American Society for Quality.

Gean Bechthold is the Forward Repair



Bulanda



Bechthold

Activity (FRA) Support Program manager, FRA Division, Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 38 employees who Reset equipment returning from Iraq, and provide field service representatives to work directly with the Soldiers and their equipment, new materials fielding to transfer new equipment to Army units and computer repairs to equipment sent to the depot for repair or servicing. The FRA west branch consists of Fort Lewis, Wash. [regional center], and up to seven satellite shops.

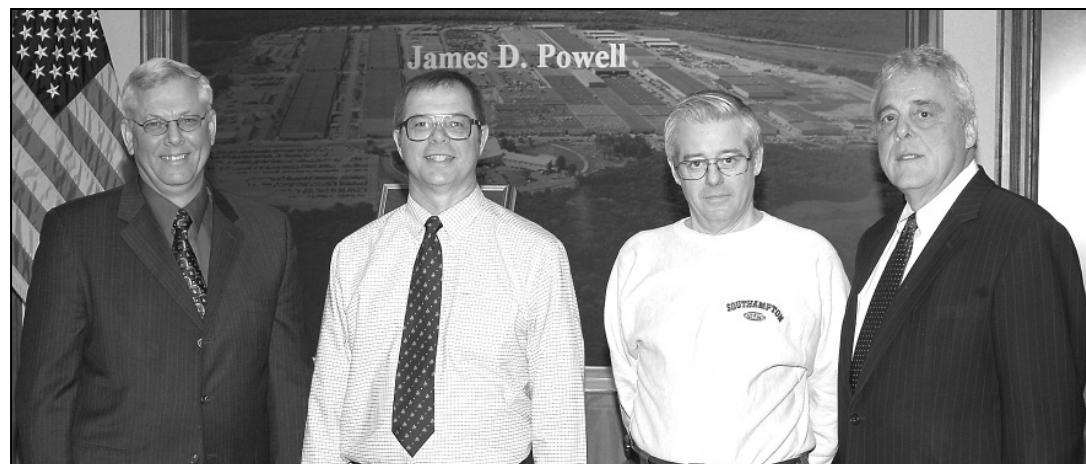
Prior to his current position, Bechthold was an electronic integrated systems mechanic supervisor in the Automated Test Equipment Branch. He began his career at Tobyhanna in July 1998.

Bechthold is a 1982 graduate of Foothill Senior High School, Sacramento, Calif. He graduated from American River College in Sacramento in 1985 with an applied science degree in electronics communications.

He and his wife, Julie, reside in Greentown. They are the parents of Serina and Katrina, 18, and Deanna, 15.

Bechthold's hobbies include home improvement, barbecue and computers.

CAREER MILESTONE



From left, James Powell, Terry Grant, Robert Doyle, and Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki attend the Length of Service Awards ceremony held March 5.

Three Tobyhanna Army Depot employees were recognized for their years of government service during the March 5 Length of Service ceremony.

Robert Doyle, 35 years, electronics mechanic, Avionics Division, Command, Control and Computer Systems/Avionics Directorate.

James Powell, 35 years, supervisory production management specialist, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

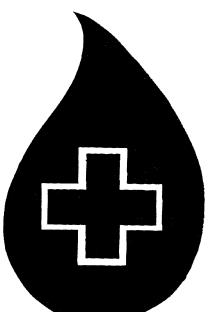
Terry Grant, 30 years, industrial engineer, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, 35-year honorees received an engraved clock, and 30-year honorees received a framed American flag and aerial photo of the depot.

Honorees who attend the ceremony get a four-hour time-off award. Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki presented the awards.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.



Combat veteran retires after 53 years service

**by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor**

Imagine working for the same employer for more than half a century...the stories you could tell.

At 73, William "Willy" Whyte is retiring after 53 years of serving his country from the front lines of Korea to Tobyhanna Army Depot.

"Always enjoy whatever you're doing," Whyte tells anyone working for the Department of Defense. "I enjoyed every job no matter what it was, or where I was stationed."

Whyte joined the Air Force National Guard in the early 1950s in Kingston. Less than two years later he enlisted in the Air Force as a munitions technician. For the next 22 years, he traveled the world loading bombs, rockets and missiles on aircraft, retiring in 1973 at the rank of E-6 [technical sergeant]. Whyte took a job here as an electronics mechanic earning \$3.98 an hour in 1975. He started out working on the vehicle radio communications line and in 1995 transferred to the Transponder Branch, Command Control and Computer (C3) Systems/Avionics Directorate.

"I'm in the process of replacing his position, but I cannot replace the individual," said Mike Jones, Transponder Branch chief. "Although there will be someone new in his chair, I can't replace Mr. Whyte. He has been an asset to the team, a high performer and one of the 'go-to guys' on the floor."

With an ever-present grin on his face, Whyte often assumes the role of mentor and storyteller for anyone willing to listen. His tales depict a strong work ethic and zest for life. Topics for conversation range from work to trains and Civil War history, according to coworkers.

While on active duty, Whyte armed and de-armed aircraft seats and ejection systems, and loaded munitions on several aircraft including the B-26 Invader, B-17 Flying Fortress, B-29 Superfortress, F-80 Shooting Star and F-86 Sabre.

As a young airman, Whyte remembers his first duty assignment to Pusan, Korea, during the war. "I wrote mom a letter telling her not to worry," he said. "We had running water," he chuckled, explaining that during the rainy season so much water coursed through the tents that they had hang their shoes from a hook.

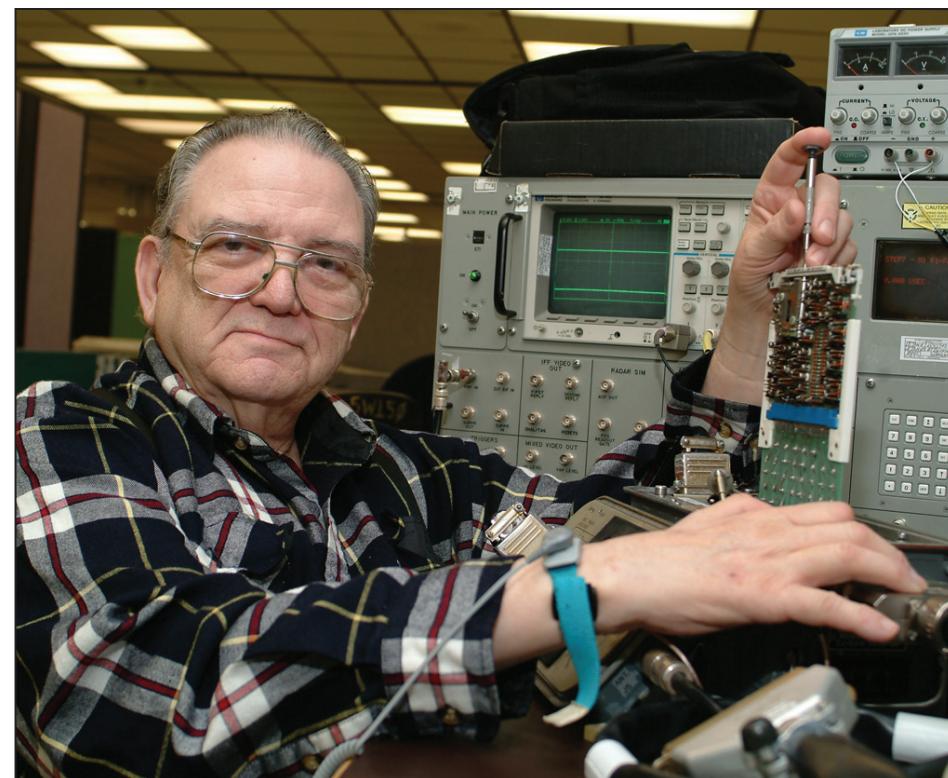
"I [my home] was in a tent with five other guys, and sometimes you were cold and wet, but you learned to make the most of every assignment," he said of his combat duty.

Whyte said the best part of his job has always been encouraging others to excel.

As the senior mechanic on the floor, Whyte possesses a wealth of knowledge and valuable experience, according to Joe Lagana, work leader. "He makes everything look easy."

"He's taught the majority of the new guys, including myself," Lagana added. "Whenever anyone had a question, we'd all agree it was time to go see the 'senior man.' It's nice to see someone pass on their knowledge to the next generation." Lagana has worked with Whyte for six years.

Four years before his first retirement, Whyte realized that jobs for someone with a munitions background would be scarce in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He needed to



Left, Willy Whyte will retire from the federal government for a second time next month. He retired from the Air Force in 1973 following a 22-year service commitment. He started work at Tobyhanna in 1975. Above, Whyte was still in his teens when he joined the Air Force in the early '50s. (Photo at left by Steve Grzezdzinski)

find another career to support his family after leaving military service. Whyte enrolled in a three-year mail-order electronics course from the National Technology Schools in California, and graduated 18 months later. He learned how to build, test and use different pieces of equipment in his basement.

"I've done everything on the radios and transponders," Whyte said explaining that his job involves a lot of detail work such as replacing transistors, diodes, resistors and capacitors. "I've worked in the radio frequency, power supply, and circuit card sections, in addition to working on the radio transponder unit."

A career in the federal government offered Whyte an opportunity to travel the world. He left Wilkes-Barre in 1952 to attend basic training at Sampson Air Force Base, N.Y., and every couple of years he moved to a different location in the United States or overseas: New Mexico, North Dakota, New York, Colorado, Virginia, Japan, Germany, Libya, and Goose Bay, Labrador.

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, provided recruit training from Aug. 26, 1950, during the Korean War. Later, the Air Force sent more recruits to Parks Air Force Base, Calif., and Sampson until shortly after the war ended.

Whyte married his hometown sweetheart in 1956. He met Gloria while double-dating with a buddy who was a paratrooper. "Gloria was his date," he said. "It wasn't working out with my date, so I kind of stole her from him. I've been married to her ever since." The couple lives near Promised Land. They are the parents of one son, Scott, and grandparents to four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Whyte has always kept himself busy with off-duty hobbies and activities. He likes to read books, take photos and research the Civil War.

"I used to tell him that when he retired, he and his wife should hop in the car and go south to visit some of the historic places he's researched," said Roy Grassley,

electronics mechanic, who has worked alongside him for 10 years.

"I've got my hobbies to keep me busy," Whyte said. "I like building things for trains and I enjoy fishing. Plus, my wife has quite a long 'honey-do' list of things for me around the house."

Never one to shy away from trying new things, Whyte took up photography while in stationed in Japan. During another assignment he played guitar in a band that performed at clubs. Another time, he and a friend collected empty cans to deliver to a local orphanage.

"The orphanage would sell the cans to make money," he said. "Quite often, we'd hang around to help out and play with the children."

On the home front, Whyte is the vice president of the local volunteer fire department. Since joining the organization in 1975, he has held various positions to include firefighter, fire policeman, president and secretary. His wife serves in the women's auxiliary.

"Willy's been a good friend and coworker to a lot of people," Grassley said.

Grassley remembers a hunting story Whyte would tell about when he was stationed at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. "He's lived in a lot of places, but Willy knew I liked hunting, so he would tell the story and show me pictures of a big buck he shot while living in the Dakotas," he said.

Coworkers are struggling to cope with Whyte's retirement. They all agree he will be missed.

John Ross worked with Willy for four years. "He's an extraordinary employee and exceptional worker," said the former Transponder Branch chief. "He knew his job very well and always put the mission and the warfighter first."

"I got to know Willy a little over a year ago," said Stanley Fisher, Avionics Division chief. "He's a good worker who is willing to help his fellow employees. He always had an upbeat attitude when you talked to him and a story to tell."

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